THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Funds for urban water supply and sewerage disposal schemes

†*273. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by Government to arrange sufficient funds for implementation of the urban water supply and sewerage disposal schemes; and

(b) Whether the rules and procedure for providing loans for the above schemes by the Life Insurance Corporation of India, HUDCO and other financial institutions are being liberalized?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There are two-on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes to provide grants to the State Governments/nodal agencies for urban water supply and sewerage projects:—

(i) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for water supply for small towns having population less than 20000 as per 1991/2001 Census.

(ii) Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities for cities with a population of 40 lakhs & above (excluding Delhi) as per 1991 census for water supply and sewerage projects.

Apart from the continuation of the on-going projects under the above-mentioned schemes, efforts being made by Government to arrange sufficient funds for Water Supply and Sewerage Disposal Schemes include *inter-alia;*

(i) Announcement made by the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech about an outlay of Rs. 5,500 crore for 2005-06 including a grant component of Rs. 1,650 crore for the National Urban Renewal Mission to provide reform linked assistance for infrastructure development of select cities.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) There is also a proposal to intergrate the on-going Centrally sponsored schemes under a comprehensive Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for small and medium towns. The details of the scheme have not been finalized.

(iii) Finance Minister has also announced a provision of Rs. 1500 crore for "viability gap" funding for infrastructure projects. There is also a provision of Rs. 600 crore in the budget of Ministry of Urban Development for viability Gap Funding for Urban Infrastructure Projects for the year 2005-06.

(iv) Ministry of Urban Development also supports State Governments in seeking external assistance for Urban Water Supply and Sanitation projects and recommends them to Department of Economic Affairs (Ministry of Finance) for taking up with multilateral/bilateral agencies.

(b) Rules, procedures and other terms and conditions (including rate of interest) for grant of loans are decided by the Investment Committee and are reviewed every year in the beginning of the financial year in the case of Life Insurance Corporation of India. HUDCO reviews and revises the Floating Base Rate in respect of all infrastructure project loans, as and when necessary.

Setting up of Metropolitan Authority in Bangalore

*274. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested for setting up of a Metropolitan Authority for Bangalore to ensure co-ordination between the stakeholders of the civic amenities; and

(b) if so, the details of the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.